

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a bacterial autoinducer inactivation protein selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleic acid having the sequence of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) a nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- c) a nucleic acid that hybridizes to a) or b) above, wherein a positive hybridization signal is observed after washing with 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 55°C for one hour.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which further comprises a signal peptide coding region of any sequence.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). An expression vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the expression vector propagates in a procaryotic or eucaryotic cell.

Claim 5 (Original). A cell of a procaryote or eucaryote transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 4.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A method for increasing disease resistance in a plant or animal, which method comprises introducing into a cell of such plant or animal a nucleic acid